

Message Text

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SUBJ: DOLANC AS HEIR APPARENT

REF BELGRADE 2076

1. SUMMARY: DESPITE DOLANC BUILD- UP AND PERFORMANCE AT FOURTH LCY CONFERENCE, WE BELIEVE IT IS TOO EARLY TO CONCLUDE THAT HE HAS BEEN ANOINTED BY TITO TO CARRY ON AFTER THE PRESIDENT' S PASSING. THERE IS STILL TOO MUCH WE DO NOT KNOW AND SOME CAUTIONARY VOICES HAVE BEEN HEARD HERE. STILL, THERE IS NO QUESTION THAT DOLANC' S PERSONAL STOCK SINCE THE CONFERENCE, HAS APPRECIATED CONSIDERABLY. END SUMMARY.

2. DOLANC, OF COURSE, CLEARLY IN PARTY POSITION OF GREAT TACTICAL IMPORTANCE FOR ANY NECESSARY MANEUVERING CONNECTED WITH DEATH OR DISABILITY OF PRESIDENT. AND, DOLANC' S COMMENT TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS ON POSSIBILITY OF ENLARGING PARTY EXECUTIVE BUREAU AND PRESIDUM MAY SIGNAL PRO- DOLANC STRATEGY MANEUVERS.

3. BUT THERE ARE A FEW CAUTIONARY VOICES IN BELGRADE. ALES BEBLER, MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL OF THE FEDERATION AND EXA AMBASSADOR TO FRANCE AND INDONESIA AND CLOSE FRIEND OF KARDELJ, TOLD THE AMBASSADOR A FEW DAYS AFTER THE CONFERENCE

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THAT HE WOULD BE ILL- ADVISED TO CONCLUDE THAT DOLANC WAS AT MOMENT ANYTHING MORE THAN A " TOOL" BEING USED BY THE PRESIDENT FOR HIS OWN PURPOSES. CITING DOLANC' S EXPERIENCE AS PARTY BUREAUCRAT WHO WAS VIRTUALLY UNKNOWN UNTIL RECENTLY. BABLER CHARACTERIZED HIM AS AN OPERATOR AND NOT " STRATEGIST" OR POLITICAL LEADER PER SE. IN CONCLUDING, BEBLER SAID THAT KARDELJ COULD NOT BE COUNTED OUT OF ANY OF HIS APPARENT CONSIDERATIONS.

4. KARDELJ IS AN IDEOLOGIST RATHER THAN AN ACTIVIST OR ORGANIZER, AND OF LATE HAS BEEN MUCH MORE CONCERNED WITH REDRAFTING THE FEDERAL CONSTITUTION THAN WITH PARTY MATTERS. HE THUS DOES NOT LOOM AS A LOGICAL VICTOR IN ANY UPCOMING JOCKEYING FOR POSITION ALTHOUGH IT IS ALWAYS POSSIBLE THAT HE MIGHT BE AWARDED HIGH POSITION BY VIRTUE OF HIS UNRIVALLED SENIORITY AND STATURE. NATIONALITY KEY CONSIDERATIONS MAKE IT DIFFICULT TO FORESEE THE ASCENDENCY OF TWO SLOVENES IN THE HIGHEST PARTY POSITIONS -- PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY. THE SELECTION OF EITHER KARDELJ OR DOLANC FOR ONE OF THESE POSITIONS MAY PRECLUDE THE SELECTION OF THE OTHER FOR A TOP PARTY POSITION.

5. IN ANY CASE, IT IS TRUE THAT SOME CAUTION MUST BE USED BEFORE PLACING TOO MUCH EMPHASIS ON DOLANC' S INDEPENDENT ROLE. WE DO NOT KNOW, AT THE MOMENT, WHAT THE PRESIDENT PLANS FOR DOLANC, WHAT DOLANC' S EXECUTIVE BUREAU COLLEAGUES THINK OF HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AND ASPIRATIONS (MOST OF WHOM, EXCEPT FOR GLIGOROV, HAVE LITTLE LEADERSHIP POTENTIAL AND ARE DWARFED EVEN BY DOLANC) OR WHAT TITO AND DOLANC HAVE IN MIND BY THE POSSIBLE ENLARGEMENT OF THE EXECUTIVE BUREAU AND PRESIDUM.

6. BUT, HAVING SAID THAT, THERE IS NO GAINSAYING DOLANC' S IMPRESSIVE PERFORMANCE DURING THE PAST YEAR CULMINATING IN HIS ENHANCED PUBLIC EXPOSURE DURING THE FOURTH CONFERENCE. NOR CAN BEBLER, WHO ESSENTIALLY IN ELDER- STATESMAN ROLE AND PROBABLY NOT PRIVY TO " PARTY" STRATEGY, BE SAID TO REPRESENT POLITICAL THINKING FROM ANYWHERE NEAR THE CENTER OF POWER HERE. IN A SENSE, BEBLER REPRESENTS THE " PRE- DOLANC SLOVENIAN GROUP" SINCE HE ENJOYED HIS PROMINENCE BEFORE THE RISE OF DOLANC. AND THIS MIGHT EXPLAIN HIS CONTINUED HOPE FOR KARDELJ, ALTHOUGH JUDGING FROM KARDELJ' S CURRENT ACTIVITIES, FEW OTHER OBSERVERS HERE SEE ANY ROLE FOR HIM OTHER THAN A CONTINUATION OF THE ONE HE HAS PLAYED FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE PAST SEVERAL YEARS -- CLOSE FRIEND OF THE PRESIDENT AND TOP PARTY IDEOLOGIST.
TOON

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